

NASA JOHNSON SPACE CENTER ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA SHEET

NAME: James Alton McDivitt

ORAL HISTORY: 29 June 1999

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

A.A., Jackson Junior College, Jackson, Michigan, 1950

B.S. in Aeronautical Engineering, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1959

Experimental Test Pilot School, Edwards Air Force Base, California, 1960

Aerospace Research Pilot School, Edwards Air Force Base, California, 1961

MILITARY EXPERIENCE: Brigadier General, United States Air Force (retired-1972)

PRE-NASA CAREER:

Experimental Test Pilot, Edwards Air Force Base, California (1959-1962)

NASA CAREER:

NASA Manned Spacecraft Center/Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas

Astronaut, Astronaut Office (1962-1969)

Manager for Lunar Landing Operations, Apollo Spacecraft Program Office (1969)

Manager, Apollo Spacecraft Program Office (1969-1972)

Special Assistant to the Center Director, Organizational Affairs (1972)

POST-NASA CAREER:

Vice President, Corporate Affairs, Consumers Power Company, Jackson, Michigan (1972-1975)

President, Pullman Railroad, Chicago, Illinois (1975-1981)

Senior Vice-President, Government Operations, Rockwell International Corporation, Arlington, Virginia (1981- date unknown)

MISSIONS:

Gemini IV (GT-4)

- Crew: Commander James A. McDivitt, Pilot Edward H. White II
- Launched: 3 June 1965 at 10:15:59 A.M. EST from Cape Canaveral, FL
- Duration: 97 hours, 56 minutes, 11 seconds
- Landed: 7 June 1965 at 12:12:11 A.M. EST
- Mission Highlights: First American Extravehicular Activity (EVA).

Apollo 9 (AS-504)

- Crew: Commander James A. McDivitt, Command Module Pilot David R. Scott, Lunar Module Pilot Russell L. “Rusty” Schweickart
- Launched: 3 March 1969 at 11:00:00 A.M. EST from Cape Canaveral, FL
- Duration: 241 hours, 00 minutes, 54 seconds
- Landed: 13 March 1969 at 12:00:54 P.M. EST
- Mission Highlights: First manned flight of the Lunar Module (LM). Of secondary importance was testing LM mission activities such as transposition, docking and withdrawal; intervehicular crew transfer; extravehicular capabilities; rendezvous and docking

PROFESSIONAL & HONORARY SOCIETIES:

- Member, Society of Experimental Test Pilots
- Member, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA)
- Member, American Astronautical Society (AAS)
- Member, Tau Beta Pi (Honorary Engineering Fraternity)
- Member, Phi Kappa Phi (Society for Outstanding Scholastic Achievement)

AWARDS & CITATIONS:

- Honorary Doctorate of Astronautical Science, University of Michigan, 1965
- Honorary Doctorate of Science, Seton Hall University, 1969
- Honorary Doctorate of Science, Miami University of Ohio, 1970
- Air Force Astronaut Wings
- Air Medal, four clusters
- Distinguished Flying Cross, three clusters
- NASA Distinguished Service Medal, one cluster
- NASA Exceptional Service Medal
- Order of Military Merit, South Korea
- USAF Distinguished Service Medal

BIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Michael Cassutt, Who's Who in Space: The International Space Year Edition (New York: MacMillan Publishing Company, 1993), 88-89.

NASA Biographical Data Sheet (May 1972), James A. McDivitt Biographical File, History Collection, Scientific and Technical Information Center, Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

NASA News (7 June 1972), "Brig. Gen. James A. McDivitt Retires," Release No. 72-127, James A. McDivitt Biographical File, History Collection, Scientific and Technical Information Center, Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

NASA News Release (November 1962), James A. McDivitt Biographical File, History Collection, Scientific and Technical Information Center, Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX.

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA SHEET CREATED: 21 JUNE 1999